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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

MADIGAN ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL DAIRY INITIATIVES

WASHINGTON, April 9—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced he is taking four additional administrative steps to bolster farm milk prices.

“The Administration shares the dairy industry’s goal of avoiding unnecessary price instability,” Madigan said. “We are today implementing new administrative actions to supplement the six steps announced on March 11.

“These new initiatives should help balance supply and demand for milk and dairy products this year, and therefore stabilize farm milk prices,” he said.

Madigan said the U.S. Department of Agriculture will immediately take the following steps:

- Add Mexico as an eligible destination under the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) for 25,000 metric tons of milk powder, making 86 countries that now qualify under the program.

- Revise the current dairy export program invitation for cheese to include additional varieties of cheese for those countries currently eligible to purchase cheddar cheese under the program. These varieties will include mozzarella, gouda, feta and cream cheeses.

- Continue to inform DEIP countries that if they are eligible for export credit guarantees they may use the credit for the dairy export program.

- Adjust the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) purchase price of barrel cheese by reducing the differential between cheese in 40-pound blocks and 500-pound barrels from 4 cents to 3 cents per pound.

The six steps USDA took last month suspended the resale of CCC cheese and nonfat dry milk; offered to make advance purchases of cheese for several feeding programs; made dairy products fully available for export credit or donation programs; included cheddar cheese as an eligible commodity under DEIP; facilitated the use of DEIP through risk protection to private exporters; and included nonfat dry milk, when

available, as an eligible product for donation under Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949.

Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

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USDA RESEARCHERS CONCENTRATING ON ALTERNATIVE FUELS RESEARCH

WASHINGTON, April 9—U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists are breathing new life into alternative fuels research at Peoria, Ill., the home of earlier studies on making fuel from farm crops and vegetable oils.

“We are pursuing research objectives that hold promise for creating new uses and expanding markets for agricultural commodities,” said Richard L. Dunkle, director of the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR). The center is operated by USDA’s Agricultural Research Service in Peoria.

Dunkle said the research is funded by a \$1.25 million appropriation approved by Congress last October. Funds will be distributed among three research areas in which scientists from various disciplines such as chemistry and microbiology will work together.

One area of research will concentrate on producing more ethanol from a bushel of corn, thereby increasing the financial returns to farmers. “We want to increase the competitiveness of corn versus petroleum for automotive fuels,” said Dunkle.

Scientists also will attempt to increase the range of materials that can be used in making ethanol. Some of the materials now being considered include corn bran and hulls, cornstarch, crop residues and food processing wastes.

Another project will search for ways to make useful products out of the wastes of ethanol production. Scientists also will try to convert corn protein into higher-value materials that could have industrial uses.

The third area of research will focus on solving problems in using vegetable oils in diesel engines. For example, one of the main problems with using soybean oil in diesel engines is incomplete combustion and poor fuel injection during cold weather. Temperature extremes affect thickness of vegetable oils even more than diesel fuel.

“From our past experience, we know most of the problems with using vegetable oils such as soybean, sunflower, safflower and rapeseed in diesel engines. Now we can focus on the solutions to these problems,” said Dunkle.

He added that Peoria researchers may cooperate in studies at universities to compare exhaust emissions of biofuels with those of conventional fuels.

Linda Cooke (309) 685-4011

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USDA REVISES INSTITUTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR SAUSAGE PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, April 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today its revised institutional meat purchase specifications for sausage products is now available for distribution.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said comments from consumers, industry and the National Association of Meat Purveyors prompted AMS to issue a new “Institutional Meat Purchase Specification (IMPS) 800 Series for Sausage Products,” last revised in 1976.

The revised series increases the number of IMPS products within the IMPS 800 Series from 12 to more than 30 different items, Haley said. These new items include a variety of lower fat sausage formulations, provisions for additions of poultry to selected sausage products and detailed descriptions reflecting consumer demands for a wider variety of products.

The new document will take the place of “IMPS for Sausage Products—Series 800” and introduce new quality assurance provisions which will enable meat purchasers to establish with producers the quality of the product desired for purchase.

The IMPS 800 Series for Sausage Products becomes effective Nov. 1. Copies and additional information are available from Michael L. May, chief Livestock and Meat Standardization Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2603-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; tel. (202) 720-4486.

Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998

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MADIGAN NAMES RICHARD LYNQ TO HEAD MISSION TO FORMER SOVIET UNION

WASHINGTON, April 10—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today named former Secretary Richard E. Lyng leader of a mission to the former Soviet Union to select agriculturally related industries where U.S. executives will be loaned as problem-solving consultants.

The mission is tentatively scheduled to travel to three newly independent states April 20-May 3. The loaned executive program is part of a technical assistance package for the former Soviet Union announced by President Bush in November.

“This program is a unique effort to help the former Soviet Union improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its agricultural-related industries,” Madigan said. “Former Secretary Lyng and other team members have years of experience with U.S. agriculture and agribusiness that will benefit the project immeasurably.”

Lyng, who lives in Arlington, Va., was secretary of agriculture from 1986 to 1989. Other members of the mission are Howard S. Gochberg, White Bear Lake, Minn., retired executive with Land O’Lakes, Inc.; Bruce M. Anderson, Pleasant Valley, Wis., director of distribution, Great Lakes Division of Super Valu Stores, Inc.; and Edward C. Thor, vice president, Tri-Valley Growers, Tiburon, Calif.

Under the loaned executive program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with U.S. agriculture and agribusiness firms, will send U.S. private sector executives to four cities in the three independent states—Moscow and Novosibirsk in Russia, Alma-Ata in Kazakhstan, and Minsk in Byelarus—for a period of three to 12 months. The executives will advise managers in the industries selected by this mission on day-to-day problem solving in a market-driven environment.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

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USDA ANNOUNCES ESTIMATED 1991 WOOL AND MOHAIR PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, April 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that wool producers will receive about \$130 million in 1991 marketing year price support payments on shorn and pulled wool

and mohair producers will receive about \$50 million. Payments will be made in late April.

The 1991 support price for shorn wool is \$1.88 per pound as determined by the National Wool Act of 1954, as amended. The 1991 national average market price for shorn wool is .55 cents per pound and \$1.33 less than the support price.

The 1991 shorn wool payment rate of 241.8 percent is the percentage which brings the average price received by all producers up to the support price. The payment rate will be applied to the net proceeds received by producers for shorn wool sold during the marketing year.

The Wool Act provides that pulled wool shall be supported at a level comparable to the shorn wool support rate in order to maintain normal pulled wool marketing practices. Accordingly, producers will receive \$5.32 per hundredweight in price support payments for unshorn lambs that were sold or slaughtered during the 1991 marketing year.

The Wool Act also provides that mohair be supported at a level of not more than 15 percent above or below the percentage of parity at which shorn wool is supported. For 1991, the mohair support price is \$4.448 per pound (85 percent of the percentage of parity at which shorn wool is supported). Mohair price support payments are based on the percentage needed to bring the average return (\$1.28—the 1991 national average mohair price) received by all mohair producers up to the announced support price. Thus, for the 1991 marketing year, mohair producers will receive \$2.475 for every \$1.00 of mohair marketed or a payment rate of 247.5 percent.

Payments will not be made on that portion of producers' sales proceeds which exceed, on a per-pound basis, four times the national average price, or \$2.20 per pound for wool and \$5.12 for mohair.

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

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FmHA TARGETS IMPROVED SERVICES TO NATIVE AMERICANS

WASHINGTON, April 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration will host a seminar to identify ways to increase their Indian participation in FmHA programs for housing, farming, community facilities and business enterprises, a USDA official announced today.

FmHA Indian coordinators, Tribal leaders and other Indian officials from around the country will convene in Oklahoma City, for a National Native American Seminar, April 14-15, said FmHA Administrator La Verne Ausman.

Workshops will deal with such issues as FmHA housing programs on Indian reservations, guaranteed loans and barriers to credit generally.

Officials scheduled to participate in the seminar include: Jim Pace, director of indian programs, USDA; Virginia Spencer, executive director, National American Indian Housing Council; Sam Miller, director of Natural Resources, Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Interior Department; Robert Miller, president, Inter-Tribal Agriculture Council; and Francis Harjo, executive director, National Commission on American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Housing.

The keynote speaker will be Oren Lyons, a leading authority on Native American issues. Chief Lyons is an associate professor and director of Native American Studies at Syracuse University.

There are Indian Reservations in 32 states, and FmHA has an Indian Coordinator in each of its 46 state offices. FmHA is USDA's lending agency. It provides loans and grants for farming, housing, community facilities and business enterprises.

For more information contact Dick Goodling, FmHA Director of Indian Affairs, telephone (202) 690-1890.

Dallas R. Sweezy (202) 720-6903

Ralph C. Wunder (202) 720-6903

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SAFE FOOD HANDLING OF TRADITIONAL, SYMBOLIC SPRING FOODS

WASHINGTON—Springtime is marked by the eating of foods rich in tradition and symbolism. It's the sensory aspects of these foods—the smell of a brisket roasting in the oven for Passover, the smoky flavor of ham at Easter—that we like to savor.

But what we need to remember is that these special foods also need proper handling. Since perishable foods like meat, poultry and eggs can be the source of bacteria that cause foodborne illness, they must be carefully handled. Follow these tips for safe handling:

BUYING HAM AND LAMB. With the variety of hams on the market today, it is important to read the label to know how to handle and cook what you buy. For example, some canned hams do not need to be refrigerated. But other canned hams do need to be refrigerated, so read the label carefully.

Most packaged lamb is labeled “spring lamb” or “genuine spring lamb.” The term “spring” does not necessarily refer to the season the lamb was born, but to its age (less than a year old) at the time it is sent to market.

Lamb is covered with a papery whitish membrane called the fell, which should be removed before cooking as it tends to make the flavor of the meat strong.

COOKING LAMB, HAM AND BRISKET. All meat and poultry should be cooked in an oven set no lower than 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Lower temperatures may not kill bacteria present in the food.

Another important factor in keeping food safe is thorough cooking. All perishable foods must reach a high enough internal temperature to kill bacteria. That means:

- 160° F for fresh ham

- 140° F for canned refrigerated ham

- 140° F for canned ham that is shelf stable, or fully cooked, vacuum packaged and unopened ham

- 165° F for fully cooked ham, wrapped at the grocery store

- 160° F for lamb and beef brisket (medium) and 170 F (well done)

SERVING THE PASSOVER SEDER. This holiday presents some food safety challenges as the entire meal—the brisket, hard-boiled eggs, gefilte fish, matzo ball soup—must be prepared ahead so that everyone can participate in the traditional Seder ceremony.

Solutions? Cold foods can be arranged on platters ahead of time and served directly from the refrigerator. The brisket can be fully cooked ahead in either an oven or crockpot. Slice it and refrigerate in a shallow pan and then thoroughly reheat before serving.

HANDLING LEFTOVERS. All perishable foods should be refrigerated as soon as your meal is over, but no longer than two hours after removal from the refrigerator or oven.

For ham and lamb, carve the remaining meat off the bone and store it in small, shallow containers in the refrigerator or freeze for later use.

THE EGG ISSUE. Raw eggs, like raw meat and poultry, may be contaminated with bacteria. Consumers should avoid eating raw eggs or foods containing them. Raw and cooked eggs should remain refrigerated at all times.

How does this affect the Easter celebration? Eggs for an EASTER EGG HUNT should be hardcooked and must be prepared with care to prevent cracking the shells. If the shells are cracked, bacteria from your hands could seep through the shells, contaminating the inside. The eggs should be hidden in places that are protected from dirt, pets and other sources of bacteria. "Found" eggs must be re-refrigerated until eaten.

DECORATING UKRAINIAN EASTER EGGS. Since some raw eggs may contain salmonella, you must use caution in blowing out the contents to hollow out the shell for decoration. Use only eggs that have been kept refrigerated and are uncracked. Make sure hands and utensils are clean. To kill bacteria, wash the egg in hot water and then rinse in a solution of 1-2 teaspoons of bleach to a half cup of water. After removing the contents of the eggs, refrigerate them immediately and use within a day, or freeze for later use. Hollow shells are decorated and given as presents.

RAW EGG FROSTING FOR A "BUNNY CAKE." Many recipes for bunny-shaped cakes call for using a raw egg white in the frosting. But this can cause the risk of salmonella food poisoning. It's better to find a frosting recipe that uses hot syrup and egg white. If the egg white mixture reaches 160 F, it should be safe. You may also want to use a pasteurized powdered meringue available where cake decorating supplies are sold.

Consumers with questions on the food safety of Easter, Passover and other foods can call USDA's toll-free Meat and Poultry Hotline at

1-800-535-4555. Washington, D.C. area residents should call (202) 720-3333. The Hotline is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern Time, weekdays.

Sue Conley (202) 690-0351
Issued: April 13, 1992

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USDA ANNOUNCES NATIONAL FACTOR FOR 1990-1991 DISASTER PROGRAM PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, April 13—Keith Bjerke, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, announced today that a national factor of 50.04 percent will be used to calculate payments to producers who filed claims for crop production losses under provisions of the 1990-1991 Disaster Program.

Bjerke said qualifying producers' payments were calculated by determining the eligible amount of production loss and multiplying it by the applicable rate.

"Because total payments are limited by the \$995 million allocated by Congress, it was necessary to factor this further," Bjerke said. "Producers may calculate their payments at once by using this percentage."

The mailing of payment checks is scheduled to begin Tuesday, April 14.

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

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USDA FINDS NEW ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY WAYS TO STOP CORN EARWORM

WASHINGTON, April 14—Corn earworm moths were reduced 50 to 75 percent in field tests by releasing males that had been partially sterilized by radiation in the laboratory, U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists report.

That's not the only bad news for these costly pests of crops, scientists say. They also have found an easy, low-cost way to mass produce parasitic flies whose offspring feed on corn earworm larvae. A female

Archytas marmoratus fly can lay up to 3,000 larvae-eating maggots in her 50- to 70-day life span.

Corn earworms cause an estimated \$1.2 billion in damage each year—not only to corn, but also to cotton, tomatoes and other crops.

“Although chemical pesticides continue to provide acceptable control of the corn earworm in most situations, we continue to look for solutions that are more environmentally compatible,” said Charlie E. Rogers, of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. “We’re optimistic about sterile earworm males and parasitic flies becoming alternatives to chemicals.”

Rogers, who heads an ARS lab in Tifton, Ga., said it takes longer for biological controls and other non-chemical strategies to knock down earworm populations. But, he added, these alternatives could be available to farmers within several years if additional field and lab tests are successful.

Tifton scientists at the Insect Biology and Population Management Research Laboratory did the research on the two new environmentally friendly strategies:

Male corn earworm moths were partially sterilized and then released to mate in fields. Wild moths were reduced 50 to 75 percent during a 1988-90 pilot field study in North Carolina by using what’s known as inherited sterility, a technique pioneered by ARS scientists.

“Radiation doesn’t kill the lab-raised earworms, but only damages their reproductive chromosomes,” said James E. Carpenter, an entomologist at the lab.

When the irradiated males mated with wild females in the pilot study, the offspring inherited the sterile chromosomes and could not reproduce. In the 1940s, ARS scientists began studying a similar technique to eradicate the screwworm, and it has been used successfully against the screwworm as well as fruit flies.

“Sterile males could be used with other control measures on a large scale to control the corn earworm,” Carpenter said.

Parasitic flies also fit into the alternative control package, said Tifton entomologist Harry R. Gross Jr. He has developed a way to rear the Archytas marmoratus fly that attacks both the earworm and the fall armyworm. Native to the southern United States and to Central and South America, the fly has no common name.

A female fly lays miniscule maggots that initially attach and burrow into earworm and armyworm larvae, and complete their development by consuming the worm pupae.

Gross, who began studying the fly in the early 1980s, said its potential had been limited because it could not be reared in large enough numbers to be economical or practical. But Gross now mass-rears the fly in the lab by feeding it greater wax moth larvae.

“The greater wax moth is a better food source for lab rearing *A. marmoratus* because it can be produced more easily and inexpensively than other hosts of the fly,” Gross said.

Gross said *A. marmoratus* would be most effective in the early season, by killing earworm larvae before the second generation can form and infest corn inside the husk, where they are protected from attack.

He said studies suggest the corn earworm, a pest nationwide, infests nearly 5 million acres of corn in the 12 southern states alone. Earworms produce a first generation of larvae that begin feeding on early-stage plants before corn ears appear. Moths that grow from these larvae then produce a second population of larvae that feed on the ears once they form.

Gross is preparing for a 1993 field test of the fly against the corn earworm at Tifton and in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Sean Adams (301) 504-9108

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USDA PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO CCC SUGAR PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, April 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that it is proposing amendments to sugar price support program regulations.

The amendments are required because of changes made to the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act Amendments of 1991 and apply to Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1435.

The proposed changes would:

—Allow processors in areas where USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation determines that sugarcane is normally harvested during July, August and September to obtain loans using sugar processed from that harvest as collateral. If the loans are repaid by Sept. 30, processors may request supplemental nonrecourse loans during October. These loans would mature at the end of nine months minus the amount of time the

initial loans were in effect. Formerly, this rule applied only to sugar beets.

—Provide that security interests obtained by CCC as a result of the execution of security agreements by the processors of sugarcane and sugar beets shall be superior to all statutory and common law liens on raw cane sugar and refined beet sugar in favor of the producers of sugarcane and sugar beets and all prior recorded and unrecorded liens on crops of sugarcane and sugar beets from which the sugar was derived. Processors would no longer be required to obtain and file, in the county ASCS office, lien waivers from all producers who deliver to that processor sugar beets or sugarcane for processing into sugar that is pledged as loan collateral.

An interim rule was published in the April 10 Federal Register. Send comments for receipt by May 11 to: Director, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA/ASCS, Box 2415, Washington D.C. 20013.

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

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POULTRY DISEASE VACCINE DEVELOPED

WASHINGTON, April 15—U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists have borrowed a gene from the live Marek's disease virus to create the first genetically engineered vaccine against this highly contagious disease of poultry.

Keyvan Nazerian, a USDA veterinary medical officer, said the new vaccine may be commercially available in about two years. Researchers are seeking a patent on the vaccine.

"This vaccine has already been shown in lab tests to protect chickens against Marek's disease," said Nazerian, who works at the Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory operated at East Lansing, Mich., by USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "Now it's being evaluated for its efficacy compared to other existing vaccines."

Over the past 20 years, vaccines have kept chicken flocks relatively free of Marek's disease. It can kill large numbers of birds if they are not vaccinated at one day of age.

The most commonly used vaccine, developed in 1971 at the East Lansing lab, has been partially effective in blocking the disease that

previously cost U.S. poultry producers \$200 million annually.

But those vaccines use the whole virus, and some include genes that may cause disease as well as genes that prompt immunity to the disease.

Nazerian said the new vaccine contains only the gene that promotes immunity to Marek's disease. The immunity gene was removed from the whole virus and inserted into non-disease-causing fowlpox virus, which is used as a carrier to get the Marek's gene into the chicken.

Fowlpox virus is a good carrier for new genetic material because its large DNA molecule has several regions that can be filled with alternate genetic material.

"A genetically engineered vaccine such as the one we've developed has the potential of delivering not only the immunity gene from Marek's disease, but also other genes that can give immunity to other diseases of poultry," said Nazerian.

The new Marek's disease vaccine was developed through a cooperative research and development agreement with Nippon Zeon Co. Ltd. of Japan, which also plans to license the technology.

Marcie Gerrietts (309) 685-4011

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FOOD AID AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH COSTA RICA

WASHINGTON, April 14—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the United States will sell Costa Rica \$15 million worth of U.S. wheat under the Food for Peace Program.

"This is another important step in helping Costa Rica meet its food needs," Madigan said. "With an agreement such as this, the United States shows its continued commitment to developing countries. In addition we hope to establish a strong U.S. agricultural presence in this market."

The Public Law 480, Title I, sales agreement will go into effect upon ratification by the Costa Rican Congress. The dollar credit agreement will provide financing for approximately 90,000 metric tons of wheat.

The supply period is fiscal year 1992. Purchase authorizations will be announced as issued and sales will be made by private U.S. traders on a competitive bid basis.

For operational details call (202) 720-5780.

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-0328

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UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE FOOD AID TO SURINAME

WASHINGTON, April 14—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the United States will provide \$8 million in food assistance to Suriname under the Food for Peace Program.

The allocation will provide financing for approximately 27,000 metric tons of feed grains (\$3 million), 15,500 tons of wheat (\$2.5 million) and 5,500 tons of vegetable oil (\$2.5 million).

“This action shows our continued commitment to providing much-needed commodities to developing countries,” Madigan said. “Also, agreements such as this establish strong roots for U.S. agricultural trade. As their economies improve, these countries remain loyal and valued customers.”

The Food for Peace Program is a food aid and market development program focused on the needs of developing countries. It is operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service in cooperation with USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation.

Title I of program makes available government-to-government concessional sales, which combine low interest rates and repayment terms of up to 30 years on financing to purchase specified U.S. agricultural products.

The supply period for this agreement, which was countersigned for the CCC on April 10, is for fiscal year 1992. Purchase authorizations will be announced and sales will be made by private U.S. traders on a competitive bid basis.

For operational details call (202) 720-5780.

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-0328

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USDA HAS ROLE TO PLAY IN 1992 SUMMER OLYMPICS

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Agriculture hopes that 1992 Summer Olympic competitors bring home numerous gold medals, but USDA officials want to make sure our animals don't bring back a deadly horse disease.

African horse sickness is one of many foreign animal diseases that USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service seeks to exclude from the United States. Because the disease is present in Spain—site of the Olympics—APHIS is enlisting the support and cooperation of competitors to help protect the domestic horse industry.

“To prevent the entry of African horse sickness into the United States, U.S. Equestrian Team horses competing in Barcelona must be quarantined for 60 days upon their return,” said Karen James of APHIS' veterinary services, import-export animal division.

“Competitors also have the option of keeping their horses in a country free of African horse sickness for 60 days before returning to the United States,” James said.

Horses competing in Spain and quarantined for African horse sickness must be kept at APHIS' New York Animal Import Center in Newburgh, N.Y.

James acknowledged quarantine procedures may inconvenience horse owners, but emphasized the mutual interest of APHIS and horse owners in ensuring a healthy equine industry.

“APHIS is here to protect the horse industry, and they want us to help protect them,” she said. “We all have a vested interest in safeguarding the United States from foreign animal diseases, particularly African horse sickness.”

The APHIS quarantine facility allows owners access to their horses for daily care and exercise. APHIS also works with horse owners in advance to fulfill special dietary requirements.

“We consult owners and evaluate every horse on a case-by-case basis to determine their dietary, grooming and exercise needs,” James said.

About 35,000 horses are imported annually and disinfected for ticks, fungi and parasites. In addition to African horse sickness, APHIS tests all foreign horses for dourine, glanders, equine piroplasmiasis and equine infectious anemia. Horses from South and Central America are tested for vesicular stomatitis and Venezuelan equine encephalitis. Horses from Europe are tested for contagious equine metritis.

African horse sickness is spread by numerous insects, including ticks and gnats. Infected equines may exhibit swelling of the head, neck, eyes and eyelids caused by heavy accumulations of fluid. However, mildly infected animals may appear healthy. While the disease is not known to be spread by contact between animals, infected animals moving to areas free of African horse sickness can carry the virus to the native gnats.

Alan Zagier (301) 436-7799

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